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NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL
EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA

Letter dated 6 November 1996 from the Permanent Representative of
Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the twelfth regular meeting of the Latin American Council of the Latin American Economic System, which was held at the headquarters of the Latin American Integration Association in Montevideo from 23 to 25 October 1996.

I should be grateful if you would have the attached text of decision 377, which was adopted at that meeting of the Latin American Council, circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 27.

Signed) Jorge PERÉZ-OTERMIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Decision 377, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the Government of the United States of America against Cuba", adopted at the twelfth regular meeting of the Latin American Council, held in Montevideo from 23 to 25 October 1996

The Latin American Council.

In view of:

Article 3, paragraphs (a) and (b), article 4 and article 5, paragraphs 1 (1) and 4, of the Panama Convention,

Latin American Council decision 112 concerning the imposition of coercive economic measures,

Latin American Council decisions 356 and 360, which reject the application of unilateral measures that affect the free development of international trade and violate international law and the most fundamental principles of good-neighbourliness,

United Nations General Assembly resolutions 47/19 of 24 November 1992, 48/16 of 3 November 1993, 49/9 of 26 October 1994 and 50/10 of 2 November 1995, which call for the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba,

The document of the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System, entitled "Implicaciones jurídicas y económicas de la Ley Helms-Burton: elementos para un análisis desde la perspectiva de América Latina y el Caribe" ("Legal and economic implications of the Helms-Burton Act: elements of analysis from the standpoint of Latin America and the Caribbean"),

The statements issued so far this year by the summit meeting of heads of Government of Canada and the Caribbean Community (March); by the institutionalized ministerial-level meeting of the Rio Group and the European Union (April); by the Central American presidents, the Prime Minister of Belize and the Prime Minister of Canada (May); by the Association of Caribbean States (May); by the Latin American Integration Association (June); by the Rio Group presidential summit (September); and by Mexico (September), rejecting the imposition of any unilateral coercive measure which contravenes the internationally accepted principles, rules and practices of free trade and investment,

Considering:

The need to reaffirm, among other principles, the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of trade and navigation, as set forth in many international legal instruments,

That, despite the disapproval of the international community, on 12 March 1996 the President of the United States of America signed into law the "Helms-Burton Act", a measure which tightens the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba and whose extraterritorial nature affects the sovereignty of other States and the interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction,

Decides:

Article 1. To reaffirm its strongest rejection of the "Helms-Burton Act" of the Congress of the United States of America because it disregards the fundamental principle of respect for sovereignty; contravenes the rules governing co-existence among States; imposes unilateral and extraterritorial sanctions; and constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and the principles and rules of international trade;

Article 2. To reiterate its position in favour of the immediate lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba and to call on the Government of the United States of America to repeal the "Helms-Burton Act";

Article 3. To promote among member States an official exchange of information and experience in elaborating and applying "antidote" or "mirror" laws against the "Helms-Burton Act";

Article 4. To request the Permanent Secretariat to continue its consideration of this topic, which is of particular importance to the region's external relations, and to keep the Latin American Council informed of its progress.
